

ITNA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND
ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA - CIO

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Truman Shows His Hand

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has brought solace and cheer to some people by his message to Congress on Dec. 3. The labor die-hards in Congress, the reactionaries and Big Business are in unrestrained drive to crush the labor movement and destroy the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

has given the "Go" signal for a wave of anti-labor legislation in Washington, in the South and elsewhere.

his anti-labor drive is part of the budding national policy of reaction at home, control of the bomb and imperialist intervention in China and elsewhere.

In his ultimatum to the strikers to return to work, his invitation to Congress to pass legislation for "avoiding industrial strife," the President has betrayed the principles of Franklin D. Roosevelt and opened the floodgates of reaction.

"This is the closest thing to strike-breaking we have seen since Hoover," said the president of a UAW local on strike at GM.

And the 2,500 workers on strike for two months at American Tobacco say: "Tell it to the Company, Mr. President. They are the ones who refuse to negotiate, not us!"

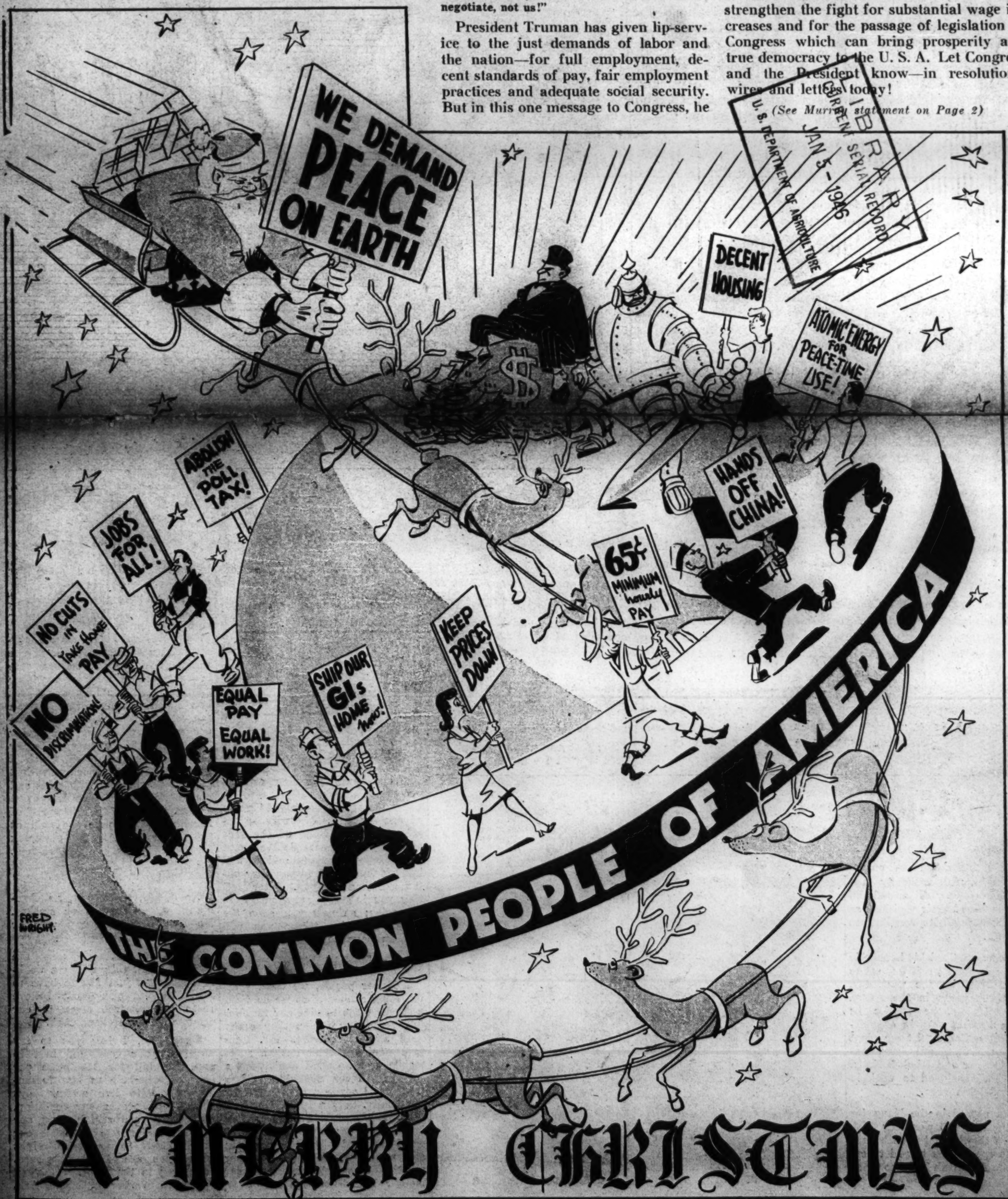
President Truman has given lip-service to the just demands of labor and the nation—for full employment, decent standards of pay, fair employment practices and adequate social security. But in this one message to Congress, he

CIO President Murray and the leaders of all organized labor have sharply denounced Truman's new labor policy. Murray has labelled it an appeasement of Big Business. Industry is fully capable of paying substantial wage increases, but it has performed a sit-down against labor in order to force wages down and raise prices.

Organized labor has given its answer. The GM strikers refused to surrender to the biggest corporation in the world by "going back to work." The American Tobacco strikers will not give up the fight until the Company meets their demands.

All of labor must unite forces and strengthen the fight for substantial wage increases and for the passage of legislation in Congress which can bring prosperity and true democracy to the U. S. A. Let Congress and the President know—in resolutions, wires and letters today!

(See Murray statement on Page 2)



Truman Ignores Human Rights, Appeases Industry—Murray

Pittsburgh, Pa. — In a radio speech here Dec. 4, CIO President Philip Murray sharply attacked President Truman's anti-labor message to Congress. Murray charged that the Truman administration completely ignored human rights, while it appeased industry "with ever greater opportunities for increased profits at the expense of the American people."

The labor policies of the Truman administration have thus far departed sharply from those under the Roosevelt administration, Murray asserted.

Referring to Truman's proposal for a new law for labor along the lines of the Railway Disputes Act, Murray said:

"It can be but the first step for ever more savage legislative repression, and for this reason the CIO shall mobilize its entire membership and the American people to defeat this specific measure and all specific attempts directed against labor."

Such legislative proposals, he continued, could have "but a single purpose, the weakening of labor unions, the curtailment of the right of free men to refrain from working when they choose to do so."

"Labor has never feared the public disclosure of facts pertaining to a labor dispute," Murray said. "We warmly welcome the public attention addressed to the facts which underlie our claims submitted in collective bargaining."

Crying Need for Increases

"Only recently a report of experts of the Office of War Mobilization was being buried by Mr. Snyder, its director. This report fully disclosed all the facts pertaining to the financial condition of American industry and the crying need for substantial wage increases . . .

"The Administration has given lip service to a suggested need for Federal legislation that would increase unemployment compensation benefits and acknowledge a Federal obligation for full employment. The complete failure to obtain such legislation has proven that the activities have been limited to a mere gesture."

"But at the same time, in the face of the astounding profits of American industry, legislation has been swiftly enacted to eliminate excess profits taxes so that these profits can become even more extortionate."

"In addition the Federal Administration tolerates, without adverse comment, a sitdown strike by industry—knowing that the American people are financing industry's arrogance and making it profitable."

Industry's Sit-Down

"You are not now getting radios, washing machines, children's underclothing and other much needed goods. Why?"

"It cannot be because of strikes, because there are no strikes in these industries. It is simply because industry is not producing these goods—this year—or it is holding them from this year's market. Here is why:

"The Federal Administration very generously, as I have said, repealed the excess profits taxes as of Jan. 1, 1946. A company that sells goods this year is subject to a maximum tax of 85½% on each dollar of profit. But beginning next year, the maximum tax has been cut to 38%."

Home Again—FTA Veterans Are Back on the Job as Organizers

OUT of uniform and back on the job with full seniority and everything—Johnny Tisa and Ed McCrea resumed their positions as FTA International Representatives this month.

Tisa, who received his honorable discharge on Dec. 4 and was set to work at FTA on the next day, served three years in the Army. Before entering the service he played a leading part in organizing the large Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N. J., Siegal Cigar, Consolidated Cigar and Kind & Knox. He has been assigned to work in the Philadelphia area.

McCrea served in the Navy for 28 months and will work for FTA in the South where, before he entered the service, he helped to organize the American Tobacco plant in Charleston, S. C.



John Tisa



Ed and Bea McCrea

GOLDEN WEDDING



Dear Mr. Congressman: Do You Want To Know Why We Need Decent Pay?

THE following letter, urging the passage of the Pepper-Hook 65c Minimum Wage Bill, was sent to Congressman Gathings and Senators Fullbright and McClellan by a member of Local 232 in Arkansas. "Just say this is from a member of Local 232 who works at the Helena Cotton Oil Co.," said the writer of the letter. "We have plenty of members in this Local who live in the same condition," and this letter speaks for them all:

Sir: Just a word with you please. Here is what I want to say. Prob-

ably my condition isn't to be considered. But, Mr. Congressman, there are really some humans who are in a worse condition. But I will discuss my problems with you.

Now I have a family of 10—8 children, my wife and myself. I work 40 hours per week; at 50c per hour, that's \$20.00. Now, my security and income taxes are deducted from that leaving me a balance of \$19.00 and some few cents. I made \$33.58 for 72 hours before the war was over. That wasn't enough—12 long hard working hours per day and no overtime.

My oldest kid is only 14 years of age—a girl. My wife is unable to work. None of the kids are old enough, so I do the work.

My fellow workers and myself laid-off from work to pay our poll-tax and vote for you. After putting you in power, now you have the reins; so now you have the power to drive where you will and we have no consideration.

Just a Decent Wage

We poor people, we don't want those big salaries, but we do want a decent wage to give our families just some few things they really need and must have. Mr. Congressman, I haven't got an automobile or a home. I don't want a car since I am not able to buy one. But I really need a home for my family. But, as I say, I haven't that. I pay rent \$7 per month; insurance—\$4; my fuel, such as wood and coal—\$8.60 per month; and my furniture bill—\$16 per month. Groceries are \$10 per month. This leaves me only \$1.25

to shoe and clothe my family per week.

I try to keep the older kids of mine in school, not even with half-clothes or shoes on. You know a \$7 per month house ain't fit to step out a shower of rain in the summer time, more or less live in through the long cold winter months. And you may know just how much insurance that a man can carry a family of 10 on at \$4 per month. \$8.60 per month for fuel is just 2/3 enough. Another 1/3 would make \$4.20 which I sure got to have or more, with 3 kids sick right now with colds and not a penny for medicine or a doctor. I've got \$179.95 worth of furniture which must be paid at \$16 per month. And \$10 per week for groceries is just 2/3 enough.

Nothing for Doctor

No doctor, no dentist, no charity gifts, no tobacco or smokes. No hair fixing for my wife or big girl.

Mr. Congressman, these are just some few things that a worker needs and just has to have to live. And, if you don't believe these things, just come to our community at Helena, Ark.

So, please, I beg you to try with all your good and best to pass the bill for 15c more per hour. It will help us less fortunate people to live a few days longer. Think-over our condition, please. We are still paying our poll tax and are going to do our utmost best to keep you right where you are. Help us please. Just keep in the fight.

From a worker in Helena, Ark.

Demand 25c Increase At Swift Plant

By O. E. McKaine, Int. Org.
Columbia, S. C.—A 25c wage increase and a 65c minimum are being demanded by the Organizing Committee of the Swift Company's cotton seed oil plant here, in current negotiations for their first Union contract.



Plant manager W. T. Mikell assumes a very paternalistic attitude toward the workers and says that he has "fathered" them. But during the discussions it was disclosed that, in spite of the fact that Swift & Company has long had a labor policy of granting sick leave with pay and 2 weeks vacation with pay after 5 years, these payments and privileges have always been withheld from the workers in the Columbia plant. Funny kind of a "Father"!

The management also objects to any kind of Union security. This objection is also against the established policy of Swift & Company for provisions have been made in its bookkeeping department for at least maintenance of membership.

"No" to Everything

And naturally, "fatherly" Manager Mikell is against such measures as 4 hours call-in pay; time-and-a-half after 8 hours; 8 hours pay for the machine break-down shift; and he absolutely refuses to discuss such radical nonsense as a 25c wage increase with a 65c minimum.

The demands of the Committee, however, have been sent to the Company's Chicago office, and negotiations will be resumed as soon as a reply is received.

The morale of the workers is excellent and the meetings well attended. Without being over-optimistic, it is believed that most of the workers' demands will be satisfied, excepting, in particular, the question of wages. On this question we are prepared to fight to the limit.

Greetings to FTA From a Union Vet

It really felt like Christmas in the FTA National Office when the following letter arrived recently. We want all food processing workers to read it:

Oskaloosa, Iowa

Dear Pals:

All of you were so good to us while we were in service, I thought I'd just drop a few well deserved words of thanks.

A couple of Navy cooks, of which I was one, saw the results of your wonderful work of sending us food properly prepared, and also with the utmost sanitation. We handled your foods all the way through service, and believe you me, your work comes up to Navy perfection which is 4-0, and that's good enough for me.

We and millions of others say Thanks for a job well done. Success to all of you.

Sincerely yours,

Miles Moss Martyn, Local 155

Win Wage Increases In First U.S. Tobacco Pact

Nashville, Tenn.—Wage increases from 5c to 25c per hour, retroactive to Oct. 9, were won in the first contract signed between Local 150 and the U. S. Tobacco snuff plant here on Dec. 1. The minimum wage was raised from 48c to the new minimum of 60c per hour.



Other gains made in the Union agreement include time - and - a half for Saturday work; double time for Sunday; and double time for 6 holidays, when worked. Time-and-a-half will also be paid after 8 hours in any day and for work outside of the employee's regular shift; and workers will also get 4 hours call-in pay.

The contract also calls for one week's vacation after 6 months' employment, and two weeks after one year; and sick leave with pay up to 10 days. Union security provisions include check-off of Union dues and a provision that Union representatives may visit the plant to determine whether the agreement is being observed.

The Local 150 Negotiating Committee was assisted by Regional Director Frank Hargrove and Int. Org. Mary Lou Koger.

Local 22 Elects New Leadership

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Newly elected officers of Local 22 are: Frank Green, Chairman; Clark Sheppard and Robert Black, Vice-Chairmen; Willie Grier, Treasurer; Etta Hobson, Fin. Secy.; John Holland, Rec. Secy.

Trustees: Carl Danner, Christine Gardner, Frank O'Neal, Jason Hawkins, and Evan Blakley. Committee Chairmen: Crawford Shelton, PAC; Moranda Smith, Education; Jethro Dunlap, Welfare; Frenchy Powell, Veterans; Lucy Mae Peoples, Publicity; Velma Hopkins, Organizing. Members of the Executive Council: Etta Hobson, Robert Latham and Robert Black.

Other members of the Executive Board, chairmen of the membership meetings, and the chairmen of the Stewards Councils are: Martha Mose, Tom Jackson, Clyde Watts, James Giles, John H. Miller, C. M. Reynolds, Theodosia Simpson, Eleanore Hoagland and Gene Pratt.

Local 70 Nears 100% In Consolidation Drive

By Virginia Stedcke, Rec. Secy., Local 70

Lima, Ohio—Local 70's drive to make the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert plant here 100% union needs only 7 more members to reach the goal.

At the Local's membership meeting on Nov. 28, Bus.

Agt. Joe Emmons reported on the success of the consolidation drive in the other DWG plants. The Steward's classes which he has been conducting have done much to strengthen the leadership of the DWG locals and help them run more smoothly.

Chief Shop Steward Sally Sullivan discussed the importance of collective bargaining and reviewed the gains made by the Local through this method. She pointed out that through collective bargaining the Union can have a voice in setting wages and working conditions. The closer the plant is to 100% organization, the stronger voice it has in collective bargaining.

Newly elected officers of Local 70 are: Zua McFarland, Pres.; Martha Mason, Vice-Pres.; Irene Parker, Secy.-Treas.; Virginia Stedcke, Rec. Secy.; Sally Sullivan, Chief Steward; Madeline Lawson, Asst. Chief Steward; Florence Baber, Board member; Lula Horn, Chairlady; Flossie Kucule and Ethel Stevenson, Trustees; Viola Bush, Lillie Poling, Cora Vossler, Sylvia King, Madeline Lawson and Sally Sullivan, Shop Stewards.

Lettuce Sheds Ask 40% Raise

By Robert MacKay, International Representative

Salinas, Calif.—Industry-wide negotiations between Local 78 and the shippers of the three principal lettuce producing areas of the country were started in Phoenix, Ariz., on Nov. 25. Local 78 is demanding a 40% increase, in order

to maintain take-home pay.

Request for industry-wide bargaining came from the shippers who have hitherto resisted the Local's efforts to bring them together. The shippers have offered a union shop for the entire industry and a wage increase ranging from 12% to 15%.



The reaction on the part of the workers is that the increase offered is wholly unsatisfactory. No increase in actual hourly rates had been made during the war, although piece rate methods of payment, combined with deterioration in the pack required, has resulted in fairly satisfactory earnings.

Expect Hourly Scale

The lettuce shed workers, however, expect a return to the hourly scale and more exact standards in the pack, and they are demanding a sharp increase in the hourly rate in order to maintain take-home pay.

Next meeting of the industry-wide committee with the shippers will be held in Los Angeles, Dec. 8, where representatives from shippers organizations in Salinas, Imperial Valley and Phoenix will meet with a rank and file Union committee of two members from each area.

Local 78 representatives from the Salinas area will be Holman Day, recently elected President of that area, and Jack Frost, former General President of the Local. They will be assisted by International Representatives Bob MacKay and Charley Law.

In addition to wage increases and the union shop, members are now especially interested in improved overtime and seniority provisions.

Win Increase at Marshall Canning

By Gertrude Melton, Reporter

Marshalltown, Iowa—A 6-month old wage dispute finally resulted in a War Labor Board order granting a 5c per hour raise at the Marshall Canning Company.

The increase was won by Local 166 and is retroactive to April 1, 1945.

Coast Locals To Set Up New Council

San Francisco, Calif.—Final official certification of FTA as the collective bargaining agent in 68 Northern California canneries is due soon, as NLRB representatives finish up the count of 1290 challenged votes left from the recent cannery election which FTA won in this area.

Meanwhile, the 10 new FTA locals set up since the elections will meet in Stockton on Dec. 16 to organize a Cannery Council which is to prepare FTA demands for the 1946 contract. Negotiations are expected to begin before the end of 1945. The contract will be negotiated by a committee of three members from each local and must be approved by a majority of locals.

At a preliminary council meeting in Oakland on Nov. 18, Fred Less was elected as Temporary Chairman and Lee Bronson was elected Temporary Secretary. Less is former president of the AFL California State Cannery Council.

A letter was sent to the American Tobacco Company, following a report on the strike situation, urging the Company to negotiate with the strikers.

Celebrate Signing Of Two New Depts.

By J. E. Oelberg, Reporter

Decatur, Ind.—Local 44 held a Round and Square Dance at the Riverview Gardens on Nov. 22 to celebrate the signing up of the Laboratory and Protein Departments at the Central Soya Co. Both departments will operate under Local 44's present contract with the Company.

Int. Rep. Kenneth Hirschy did a fine job in negotiating the new arrangements, and credit goes to William Sanders and Arthur Miller for signing up the members in the two departments.

Newly elected officers of the Local are: Elmer Myers, Pres.; Otto Hake, Vice-Pres.; LaVern Bowman, Secy.-Treas.; Joe Jaggers, Rec. Secy.; and Joe Oelberg, Reporter.

FTA news

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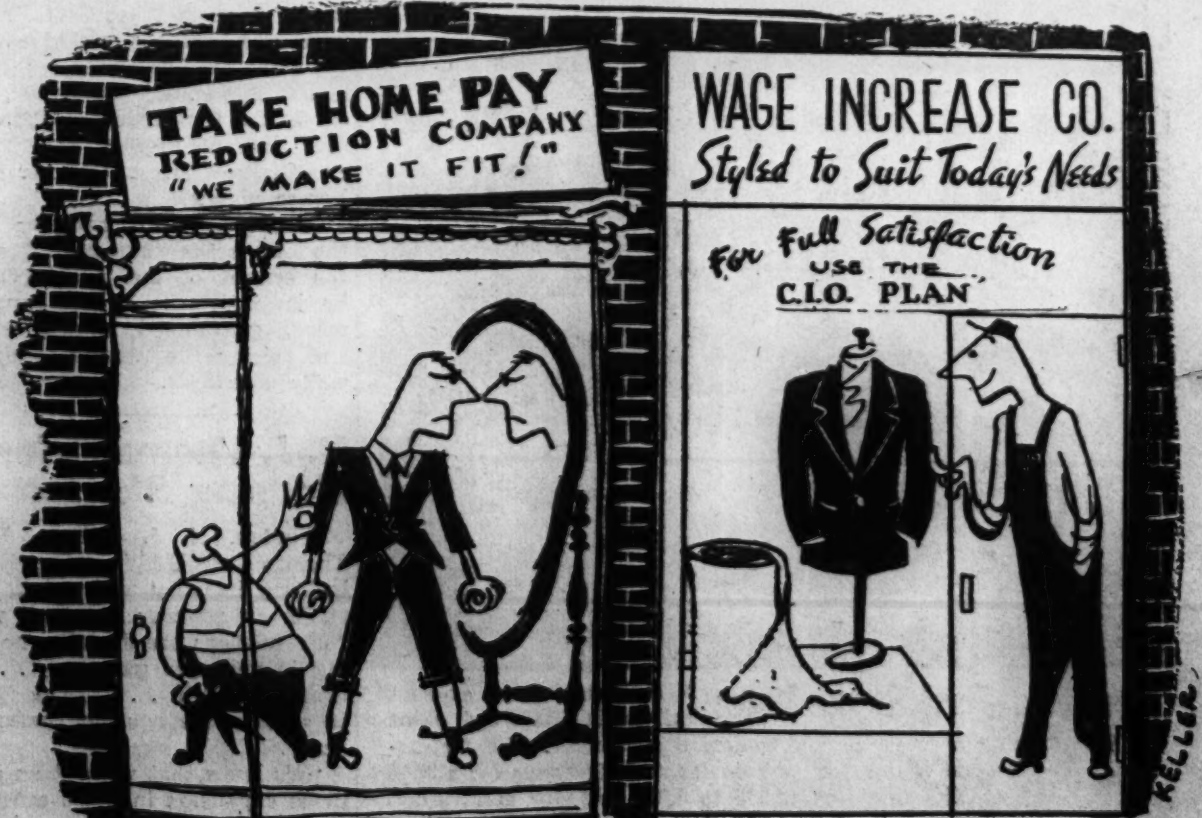
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GM Strike Is The Test In Labor's Wage Fight

Detroit, Mich.—In the history-making strike of the CIO United Auto Workers against the General Motors Corp., the UAW is spearheading the fight of all organized labor against the union-busting drive of reactionary Big Business. This struggle will be the test of labor's strength to win its demands for wage increases without price increases from profit-swollen industry.

At a meeting here on Dec. 8, GM strikers sharply rejected Pres. Truman's proposal to end the

strike until a fact-finding committee reviewed both sides.

The 300,000 GM strikers, including 50,000 World War II veterans, are backed by the entire CIO as well as many AFL, independent and liberal organizations.

"Plainly GM's management has committed the Corporation to industrial war all along the industrial front, war to break the back of organized labor; to turn the clock back to the days of company unions; to bring back a longer work week in the face of rising

unemployment; to maintain on a relief subsistence basis a large pool of unemployed to hold down wages; to charge the consumer whatever the traffic will bear; to stretch out and speed up American industrial production with disorganized labor, and, finally, to capture the world's markets by selling sweated goods for American dollars made cheaper abroad and dearer at home by spiralling inflation," said a UAW statement.

"In its postwar production GM can make as much profit before taxes, as in the best profit year of its history (1941) even though producing at less than capacity, and even though paying 30% higher wage rates than it now pays," the UAW maintains.

However, the most profitable manufacturing enterprise in the world, while maintaining that it could not pay, refused to open its books for inspection to prove its claims.

Govt. Pays GM

GM can afford to continue its sit-down strike against the American people thanks to the government's "business strike benefit fund." This fund, an accumulation of industry's excess profits taxes during the war years, is a reserve from which industry can draw to make postwar profits equal war profits.

Picket lines have sprung up around all GM plants. Thousands of pickets report for duty daily. Picket cards are issued for free food from strike kitchens manned by the Union's Auxiliaries.

Statistics Show: Jobs, Wages Drop

New York, N. Y.—"The decline in employment between August and September this year was the largest decrease recorded since the early part of 1921," said the National Industrial Conference Board, reporting a 12.1% decrease in employment in a survey of 25 manufacturing industries.

Workers' average hourly earnings went down 1.3% from August to September, the NICB reported, adding that the board "index of payrolls is at the lowest level since December 1941." Average weekly earnings in September, were 3.5% less than in August and smaller than the average for any month since May 1943.

Murray, Sheil Win Catholic Awards

New York, N. Y.—CIO Pres. Philip Murray and the Most Rev. Bernard Sheil of Chicago were honored at a dinner on Nov. 28 as the most outstanding Catholic layman and Catholic clergyman in the fight for interracial unity and human rights. At the dinner, given by the Committee of Catholics for Human Rights, they were awarded the Msgr. John A. Ryan bronze plaque.

Murray told his audience that the CIO seeks "human rights for the benefit of the whole people" by its insistence on full employment, guaranteed annual wages and raising the present minimum wage standards.

R. J. Thomas Blasts Housing Shortage

Trenton, N. J.—Pres. R. J. Thomas of UAW charged the building industry with "a sitdown strike on postwar housing" while "our veterans are doubling up, living in unheated garages . . . and even pup tents . . ." in a speech to a statewide housing conference here.

"We know that without an enormous expansion in home construction, we cannot have enough jobs in America," he added, endorsing the Senate housing bill S. 1592.



Auto Strikers Leave GM: Waving and smiling, hundreds of workers rush out of General Motors plant in Detroit to join the nationwide strike by United Auto Workers (CIO), called after Company refusal of the Union's 30% wage demand. GM has rejected Union offers to arbitrate the strike which affects a quarter million workers and has shut down over a hundred plants in 20 states.

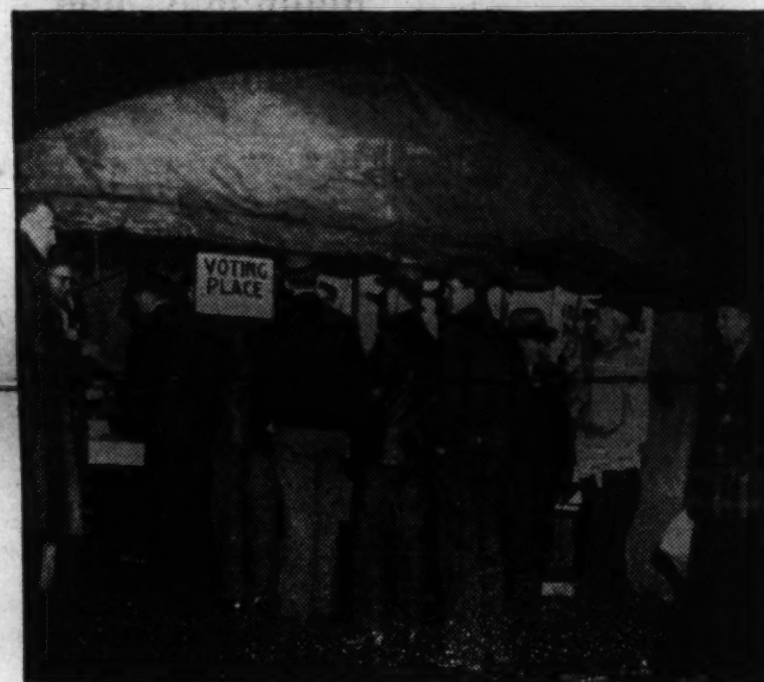
Oranges and Autos

WHAT has the price of oranges got to do with the auto strike? On the surface, nothing. But behind the scenes, the story is different.

Last spring, citrus interests and the automobile industry co-operated on getting certain amendments to the NLRB and WLB appropriations—the citrus industry got what it wanted in the Lea Rider, exempting agricultural processing workers from the protection of the War Labor Board.

Today they are both fighting for low wages, high prices and destruction of the unions in their industries. The citrus interests again won when they persuaded OPA to remove price ceilings on oranges and other fruits—while the employers, naturally, have not offered wage increases to their workers. The auto industry has refused even to discuss higher wages, while at the same time it presses for increased price ceilings.

This two-front attack by employers, collaborating with each other, must be met by labor with a continued drive for higher wages and lower prices.

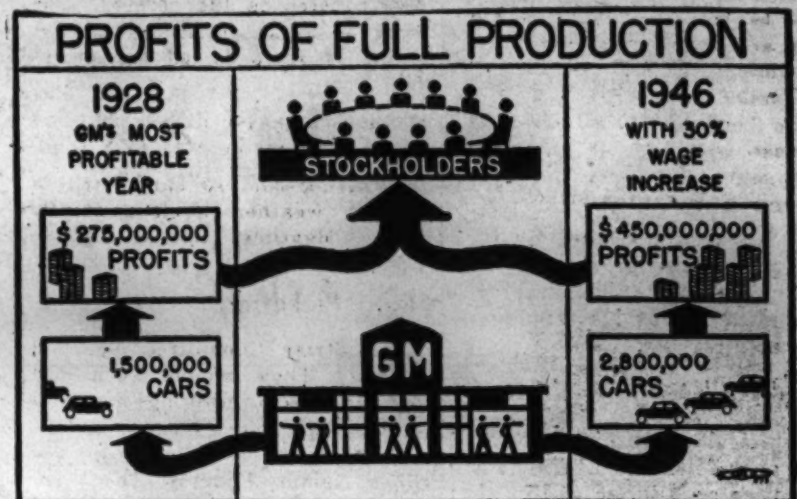


Steelworkers Hold Strike Vote: Because management claimed a strike vote held on Company property would interfere with production, a tent was erected and these employees of Bethlehem Steel Co. had to line up in the rain at Johnstown, Pa., to vote. That didn't cut down the size of the vote, though. Workers backed up the demand of the CIO United Steelworkers for a \$2 daily wage by a strike vote of 5 to 1.



Counting Ford Strike Vote: NLRB employees count ballots in the Ford plant at Detroit after a vote was held to determine whether UAW members favored strike if the Company denies their demands for a 30% wage increase. The vote was 43,235 to 3,951 in favor of striking. Negotiations with the Company are continuing following nearly a week's lay-off due to a so-called "parts shortage."

(Federated Pictures)



A Decent Wage for the American worker—that is the issue in the struggle between the General Motors Corporation and the CIO United Auto Workers. GM claims that a 30% pay raise would rob its stockholders. Here, UAW proves that with full production and wages that permit people to buy, stockholders would get larger profits than ever before. Thanks to a "carryback" provision of the tax law, GM will be paid for its losses during the strike out of Govt. tax funds.

Murray Lashes Industry Refusal to Negotiate

New York, N. Y.—Lashing out at industry's refusal to negotiate labor's demands and at government's refusal to assume responsibility, CIO Pres. Philip Murray declared that 2½ million workers in three major industries alone will soon be hitting the bricks in a fight for wage increases.

Assured of "business strike benefits" paid out of the U. S. Treasury in the form of tax refunds, industry is driving the workers onto the streets to fight the hard way for even a discussion of their demands, he told a press conference on Nov. 28.

Strikes have been voted or will be voted before Jan. 1 by one million auto workers, 925,000 steelworkers and 535,000 electrical workers.

Asked if union treasuries could hold out as long as government-financed industrialists, Murray said workers "do not lean on union treasuries; they fight on their guts. They do not take strike votes for the fun of it. But when their bread and butter is at stake, they assume the hazards that go with winning."

Profits At Highest Level

Murray told the reporters that the average worker in manufacturing industry already has lost or will lose 31% out of his pay in the next few months. Yet, industry has realized an increase in profits of more than \$40 million since January 1941. Industry can afford to pay a 31% increase in wages, keep prices where they are, and still realize more than double the prewar profit, he proved.

Increases can easily be paid out of the \$5½ million which will be saved yearly through repeal of the excess profits tax; out of the \$6 billion a year which will be saved from the cutback in overtime; out of the \$1,900 million a year employers gain from downgrading the workers; and out of the 25% increase in workers' productivity during the war, Murray said.

L-M Parley Ends A Flop

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor-Management Conference ended on Nov. 30 in failure to reach any substantial agreement on wage increases, collective bargaining, and other crucial issues before the conference.

Labor must take warning from conference indications of management's intention to launch a gigantic union-busting drive spearheaded by proposed anti-labor legislation. Congress will use the record of the conference as a springboard for a wave of restrictive, anti-labor legislation, much of which is already on the floor of Congress or about to be introduced.

Anti-Labor Gang-Up

Reactionary Congressmen may be expected to take their cue from management's stand at the conference to amend the Wagner Labor Relations Act to give "equal standing before the law" to employers; to put unions under bond as guarantees in signing contracts; to deprive unions of collective bargaining rights, for a year if no-strike clauses are violated; to deprive unions of the right to contribute to political campaigns; to eliminate union security in contracts; etc.

The AFL's failure to back up CIO Pres. Murray's resolution on the need for immediate substantial wage increases, gave management the opportunity to use the split among the labor delegates to defeat the wage resolution.

AFTER TWO MONTHS OUT AMERICAN TOBACCO:

The Strike is Solid



WILADEAN BLANKENSHIP, Local 15, Charleston, S. C.: "I wasn't in the Union till 2 days after the strike began. Didn't even know what unions are about. The boss got up and made a speech, telling us we didn't have to join the Union; we could keep on working. But there was no work to do. All we did was sit around and laugh. I decided to go home and think about it, because, somehow, it all didn't seem right. I've been out on the picket line ever since."



MATTHE BUCHANAN, Local 56, Trenton, N. J.: "I haven't been working for the American Tobacco Company very long, and I earn 55c an hour. I'm the sole support of my family, and I have children going to school. It's almost impossible to live on my wages. We need a raise to meet our living expenses. We have to pay the same for food and other necessities as do the people making higher wages. We work just as hard. Why should some companies get away with such low wages?"



MARY TURNER, Local 186, Philadelphia, Pa.: "At the beginning of the war, the Company hired colored girls as cigar makers for the first time. At first we didn't want these girls in the plant. We were afraid they would work for lower pay. But then we saw that the bosses wanted to pit us against one another. They gave us different lunch hours, different wash rooms. During our organizing campaign, the stooges tried to make the Negro girls distrust the white girls. But it didn't work. We came to understand their game. And every time they tried to keep us apart—we just got closer together."

ON Monday morning, Nov. 26, the American Tobacco Company was all set to break the strike with a "back-to-work" movement. The tall smoke stack in back of the Philadelphia plant, which had shown no signs of life since the plant struck on Oct. 15, suddenly gave forth with big gusts of black smoke.

The picket line started at 6 a.m. and tightened up as the smoke came up. Word was passed around that the Company had written to many people over the weekend, urging them to come back to work. Would they come?

Eight girls came around. Some stood at the corner, wavering. Others came up to the picket line, and the pickets spoke to them. "Don't listen to the bosses." The would-be scabs turned back. A couple of them joined the picket line.

The Company's little trick had failed. The strike was still solid.

Picketing isn't so hard, even in freezing weather—as long as it's only in daytime. But at night—

Night Picketing

The Strike Committee met and decided. They would keep the Company from bringing more oil into the plant at all costs. Let the straw bosses freeze in the silent, clammy building. The strikers weren't going to stand for that smoke coming out of the chimney. From here on, 24-hour picket duty.

The girls volunteered for night duty. Jo Pizzuta said she'd go on at night, since her mother was sick at home, and she'd be able to care for her during the day. Sleep? That comes later. Edith May volunteered. What's so bad about night picketing?

On Saturday night, Edith was saying: "I came home from picketing early this morning and did my shopping for the week. Mother made some tea for me, but I couldn't eat because I had to rush to church to lead my choir. When I got back home, I did my cleaning—four rooms and the hall. I tried to eat and catch some sleep."

She was back on the line Saturday night. Sunday morning would mean cooking dinner, going to church, teaching Sunday school, home to eat. Then some sleep, and picketing again.

Want A Decent Wage

"We aren't asking for a hand-out," Edith says. "We work hard, and we always will, I expect. But we also expect and want a decent living wage for our work. The Company offered us a 5% raise before we decided to strike—5% now and 5% when we go back to a 40-hour week. And we figure we'll be going back to 40-hours right after the first of the year, when the cigar season is slow."

"Well, that's no increase—that's a loss for me. I'm making \$28 a

week now, working at piece rates in the domestic cigar department. The Company would have me working at \$23 a week after New Year's. And that's typical of the wages in the plant. We just couldn't afford that kind of offer. Our demand is for a 25c an hour increase in pay."

"We're fighting for no discrimination here, too," Mary Turner adds. "The colored girls in the plant are 'boarded in.' The Company gives us different lunch hours, different wash rooms. They try in every way to keep us pitted against one another. It used to work—but they don't get away with it anymore."

Peg Kendig, leader of the Strike Committee, tells about discussions with her friends about discrimination. "One of my friends didn't quite agree with me and with the Union. He asked me to write to my husband, in the Army, about it, and I did. This is what my husband answered from overseas: 'Peg, I didn't even look to see what the man in the next foxhole looked like. I was only too glad to know he was there.'"

The Company got the rumor around that when Peg's husband, Jack, would get back from overseas, he'd stop Peg from activity in the Union. But they were wrong there, too. Jack came home at the end of seven weeks of the strike. And the next morning, Peg marched down to the picket line with him.

Charleston

IF THE Company is tough in the Philadelphia plant, they're several times worse in Charleston.

"We've got the lowest wages in our plant," says Irene Reid, the slim, serious girl who is Local 15's permanent delegate at the Phila-

delphia strike. "The Company doesn't consider the Union at all. When we bring up grievances, they just file them away. They always try to brew confusion between the workers. If you're a new girl and not in the Union, they'll teach you to make cigars. But if you're a Union girl, they won't pay any attention to you."

Wiladean Blankenship, known as "Willie" in Philadelphia, is also a strike delegate from Local 15. Her heavy Southern drawl and sparkling eyes and her inexhaustible store of Union songs do a lot to brighten up the picket line. She'll just sing any song that

comes to her head and put Union words to it as she goes along.

Willie joined the Union two days after the strike began. "I would have joined the Union long ago," she said, "but I got the impression joining the Union would be the worst thing I could do. I was new in the plant and I didn't even know what unions are about. Some of us remained in the plant after the Union called the strike. The boss got up and made a speech to us, telling us we could keep on working. But there was no work to do. All we did was sit around and laugh a lot. I decided to go home and think about it, because, somehow, it didn't seem right. I've been out on the picket line ever since."

Bosses' Line Didn't Work

In Charleston, the Union's biggest hurdle was getting the white and the Negro workers together. It usually takes years to overcome the blind prejudice that keeps workers apart. The bosses used the old line over and over: "If you join the Union, you're nothing but a N—lover."

But came the strike, and that trick didn't work any more, either. Colored and white—all joined the strike. "The white people in town wouldn't give us a place to meet together," Willie says. "So we all held our strike meeting in a Negro church. Joint Union meeting, colored and white. Even the picket line is mixed now."

In Charleston, where Company stooges sent four thugs around to beat up the President of the Local, the community understands why the Union is fighting. The strikers have the sympathy and support of the Charleston Cosmopolitan League, the Ministers' Association and the Citizens' Political Action Committee.

Trenton

IF YOU haven't yet seen a factory that looks like a Spanish villa, take a trip to Trenton. There, the Henry Clay and Bock plant, a subsidiary of the American Tobacco Company, occupies a V-shape street block, with a fancy Spanish style front and a garden, too. Four weeks before Christmas, the Company had the garden all lit up with fancy lights and trimmings.

The Trenton girls, pounding the picket line out in the cold, don't care much for that kind of Christmas spirit. But they can take it. At the same time the Company put out its Christmas decorations, they also sent a printed copy of the Union contract to every striker. The girls turned to page 33 of the contract, marked the wage reopening clause, and sent it back to the Company.

Once the Company put up "No Trespassing" signs on its front lawn, to keep the pickets from passing across it. The next morning, something new was added. Across the "No Trespassing" print, each sign was clearly marked in lipstick: "STRIKE."



EDITH MAY, Local 186: "When I finish buying food for the family and paying the bills that have to be paid, there's nothing left of my pay for any of the 'extra' things that make life good. My youngster is 14, and she wants a typewriter, but, of course, I can't afford it. Even less expensive things, sometimes. My girl says sometimes, 'Mother, let's go to a movie.' And I have to say, 'I'm sorry, dear, there's no money left.'"



JOSEPHINE CHIARELLI, Local 56: "I've been working here for four years, and I average about \$30 for a 48-hour week. When we go back on 40 hours again, my wages will be so low that I won't be able to live on it. We need an increase very badly, because there are many employees who earn even less than I do and who have to support their whole families. The American Tobacco Company can easily afford to give it to us, so we're going to fight till we win."



IRENE REID, Local 15: "Since our 5c raise, my take-home pay is \$25 a week, but it isn't enough. I have to care for my mother. Rent is \$17 a month; insurance, \$10. Groceries cost me \$40 a month now. Then there's clothes and everything else. When I get a full supply of groceries one week, I have to cut down the next week, in order to keep within my budget. The colored girls in our plant get 2c or 3c less than the others. Before the war, only the lowest paid work was for Negro people. Recently, they've been spreading the word around the plant that they were going to fire the colored girls."

**Don't Buy
Lucky Strike
Pall Mall
On Strike**

To help the American Tobacco strikers, spread word of the boycott. Locals may order boycott stickers from the National office.

American Tobacco Strike Receives Wide Support

In addition to the many unions and other organizations who have indicated their support to the American Tobacco strike by distributing boycott leaflets and contributing funds, the following FTA Locals have made financial contributions to the strike (as of Dec. 3):

Local 7-2, Seattle, Wash.; Local 19, Memphis, Tenn.; Local 64, San Diego, Calif.; Local 80, Camden, N. J.; Local 89, Jonesboro, Ark.; Local 105, New Brunswick, N. J.; Local 174, Minneapolis, Minn.; Local 182, Port Gibson, Miss.; Local 186, Philadelphia, Pa.; Local 193, Glenolden, Pa.; Local 273, New York, N. Y.; Local 281, Detroit, Mich.; Local 638, Lancaster, Pa.; Citrus Workers Organizing Committee, Lindsay, Calif.; and Locals 22, 70, 71, 154 and 283.

In Philadelphia, the International Workers Order offered free medical services to the strikers and their families.

The Wisconsin Industrial Union Council and Milwaukee IUC mimeographed and distributed boycott leaflets throughout the State. UE Local 1131 threw all Lucky Strike cigarettes out of vending machines in plants.

The Illinois IUC financed a large-scale State-wide boycott drive.

PEACE ON EARTH?

Resolution in Congress Calls For Withdrawing U.S. Troops From China

From the FTA Washington Newsletter

REP. HUGH DeLACEY of Washington demanded on the Floor of the House, recently, that American troops be withdrawn from China and that our government cease its policy of intervention in the internal affairs of the Chinese people. He accused ex-Ambassador Hurley of deliberately reversing the Roosevelt policy of encouraging Chinese unity, and of pushing us into a situation of armed intervention.

"The brute fact of using our transports to put Chiang's forces in position, the brute fact of permitting American lend-lease munitions to be used against China's heroic anti-Japanese resistance

forces . . . the brute fact that scores of the thousands of high-point servicemen are held in the Pacific while transports and hundreds of Victory ships are tied up in Seattle and San Francisco—all add up to something," DeLacey declared. "They add up to the negative of the lofty principles expressed in the preamble of the World Charter . . . They add up to war in China."

This is an attack against the people on an international scale. Its twin is the big business attack against labor at home. The war against fascism proved that we cannot be safe in this country if the rights of workers are en-

dangered in other countries. That is what is involved in China.

Representative DeLacey, together with Representatives Coffee and Savage of Washington, Patterson, Healy and Douglas of California, introduced a formal resolution demanding that the President get our troops out of China. Write your Representative to support H. Res. 408, which has been referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

FTA members in California and Washington, particularly, should let the six sponsors know they have the backing of the voters in their states.

CIO President Murray Urges U.S. Break Relations With Franco Spain

"IT IS of the utmost importance for World Peace and Democracy that the U. S. immediately withdraw its support for the Franco regime in Spain and recognize a Spanish Republican government to serve as a provisional authority for that country," said CIO Pres. Murray in an appeal to Pres. Truman.

"In 1937, Spain became the laboratory of fascism. Too many of us here in America refused to recognize the danger at that time, thought we could compromise with evil," Murray continued, telling how, because the U. S. failed to rally to the support of the democratic Spanish people, fascism triumphed in Spain and paved the

way for the recent war against the Axis.

Today, after we have defeated fascism in Germany, Italy and Japan, Spain still remains fascist—a threat to our security and the security of every nation in the world. Even now, in Franco Spain, Nazi scientists are carrying on research in producing the atomic bomb to wipe out civilization.

Rep. John M. Coffee has introduced in Congress a bill (HR 312) to break relations with Franco Spain. "Such a move on our part would severely curtail the life of the Nazi-Falange regime in Spain," said Coffee on introducing his bill.

"Franco Spain is, today, the last

outpost in Europe of Axis fascism. It is the last refuge where Axis cartels and Axis scientists can function without interference," he continued. "It is the one spot left in Europe from which the Axis fascists can launch still another attempt to seize world domination."

"Once deprived of diplomatic and commercial relations with the U. S., the Franco regime will fall."

"I therefore, call upon all Americans to wire or write to Pres. Truman, asking him to immediately break all diplomatic and commercial relations with the Franco regime in Spain. I also ask all Americans to write to their Congressmen urging support of HR 312."

Funds Held Back From UNRRA While The People of Europe Are Starving

WHILE starvation and need face the people of Europe and Asia this winter, reactionaries in Congress are playing politics over UNRRA appropriations so sorely needed for relief. The people of these war-devastated lands need food desperately, medical assistance to stave off epidemics and tools and raw materials for rebuilding.

Herbert H. Lehman, head of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, told Pres. Truman, on Dec. 3, that if Congress does not soon appropri-

ate the \$550,000,000 requested last year, UNRRA relief shipments will face an immediate breakdown. Should Congress fail to act soon on a more recent request for \$1,350,000,000, UNRRA's essential operations will have to cease.

UNRRA has full programs in five countries: Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Albania. In Italy, UNRRA's limited program has made subsistence possible for thousands of mothers and children and saved countless of others from disease. In western

Europe, over a million displaced persons are receiving care in UNRRA camps.

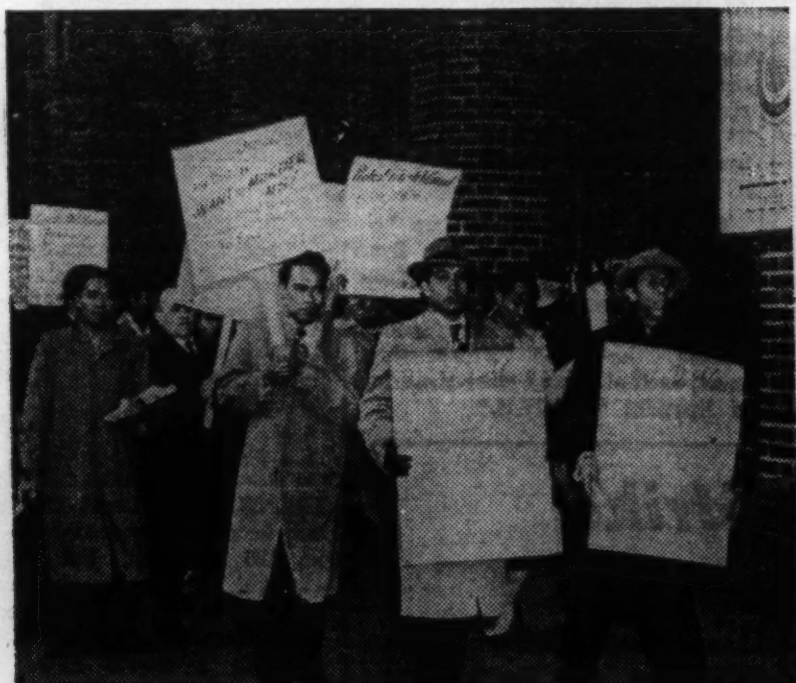
Byelo-Russia and the Ukraine, Austria, Korea and Formosa are all slated for UNRRA aid, but all this depends on whether Congressional appropriations come through before the first of the year. Reactionaries hope to use UNRRA as a political weapon to meddle in European affairs. They are stalling appropriations in the hopes of making it mandatory for every country receiving relief to allow freedom from censorship for U. S. newspapermen.



Meeting Without Bloodshed: Here is proof to contradict the British claim that hatred between Arabs and Jews forces the presence of British troops in Palestine. The above picture, taken recently, shows Arab chieftains attending the birthday party of Abraham Shapiro, 70-year-old Jewish patriarch, in a village near Tel-Aviv. Actually, British troops are stationed in Palestine to protect British oil interests in the Near East and British control of the Suez Canal. Arab-Jewish riots are often provoked by the British to provide an excuse to keep British troops stationed there.



Hunger Clamors in Philippines: The food shortage was great in the Philippines and remains bad as the country struggles to its feet. These kids in Manila got rations from sympathetic soldiers, but now the U. S. Army has forbidden soldiers to give food or clothing to the natives. The people of the Philippines—a U. S. colonial possession—fought and died for the U. S., the United Nations—and for their own freedom from oppression. Unlike any other Pacific colonial nation, they spurned cooperation with Japan during the war. They formed guerrilla bands, harassed the Japanese, destroyed their own crops to keep them out of Japanese hands. Now that the war they helped to win is over, they are shunted to the sidelines. Before the war, the Philippines were run by a favored few financial straw bosses for the U. S. Philippine industry was not promoted because it would help neither the U. S. nor the straw bosses. The Philippines are due for independence next year, but are faced with economic slavery for the next 20 years unless they are able to throw off the yoke of U. S. financial domination.



Indonesians Want Independence: Faced with the full might of Dutch imperialism backed by British and U. S. arms, the Indonesian fighters for freedom have raised the slogan "Better live in hell than be colonials again." They've appealed to Pres. Truman for aid in gaining full independence, but have been answered by stony silence. U. S. silence is due to heavy financial investments in Indonesia totalling more than \$100 million. Standard Oil Co. owns some 500 oil wells plus petroleum reserves in Sumatra. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and U. S. Rubber Co. each own more than 200,000 acres of rubber trees in Sumatra. Goodyear has a big tire factory in Java.



They Wait for Judgment: In a courthouse in Nuremberg, Germany, the most vicious criminals in history are on trial for their crimes against civilization. (Reading left to right, front:) Herman Goering, Rudolph Hess, Joachim Von Ribbentrop and Wilhelm Keitel. (Rear:) Karl Doenitz, Erich Raeder, Baldur Von Shirach and Fritz Saucke. (Federated Pictures)

Congress and the Big Stick

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

WATCH THESE BILLS!

MANAGEMENT'S anti-union drive, conducted on both the economic and legislative fronts simultaneously, reached its peak with these developments:

Refusal to consider labor's wage demands on the part of the auto, steel and tobacco industries has pushed labor into strike action.

Refusal to accept even the principle of wage increases by management—aided and abetted by the AFL and John L. Lewis—and insistence on raising questions of anti-labor legislation, wrecked the Labor-Management Conference in Washington. The Conference closed this month without having accomplished a single thing.

Congressional cohorts of reactionary business interests have rushed into the situation with three vicious anti-labor measures which they hope will break the strikes and weaken the labor movement to prevent any further economic or political activity. Timing of this legislation, which was used as a threat over the labor members at the labor-management parley, was perfect—in the eyes of the union-busters.

Eliminate the Negative—Stop Anti-Labor Bills:

Immediate action must be taken to defeat three bills which have been rushed out of the Rules Committee and set for quick action by the House.

AMENDMENTS TO SMITH CONNALLY ACT (HR 3937) aim at smashing both the economic and political rights of labor unions.

The bill makes it illegal for labor to collect and use any funds for political action, specifically prohibiting activities in primary campaigns. Unions can also be charged with violating contract "no-strike" clauses and lose collective bargaining rights for one year. Union treasuries can be raided in civil suits for damages.

Such a law would bring about a re-birth of the stool-pigeon and labor-spy racket, with employers fomenting and provoking strikes on all sides in order to break the union.

This bill must be stopped. Wire your Representative immediately to take a firm stand for the democratic rights of American workers and oppose HR 3937.

THE GWYNNE BILL (HR 2788) provides a one-year statute of limitation "for the recovery of

wages, penalties and other damages pursuant to any law of the United States."

This would make it impossible for workers to collect back wages due under the Fair Labor Standards Act more than one year after the violation. Since workers frequently do not discover they have been gypped until there has been an investigation by the Department of Labor, long after the offense has been committed, this would rob the lowest-paid and least-protected workers in the country of their rights.

THE HOBBS BILL (HR 32) provides 20-year jail sentences and \$10,000 fine for any person who "through intimidation or by threat of violence" interferes with interstate commerce. Could be used by reactionary courts to jail and fine strikers, interpreting peaceful picketing as "intimidation."

Let your Representative know that only if he fights and votes against these bills can he possibly ever be considered as friendly to labor and worthy of labor's vote.

Accentuate the Positive—Push Needed on Pepper Bill:

The one piece of positive legislation which, in our opinion, has the best chance of passage is the Pepper-Hook Bill for a 65c-75c minimum wage and extended coverage. The "compromise" talk is still quite loud, however, and the danger is that Congress may pass a bill to raise the minimum to only 50c or 55c and may ignore completely the question of coverage. This would save the consciences of the Congressmen and leave our wages just where they are now.

We are trying to get the Pepper Bill (S 1349) reported to the Floor of the Senate for a vote before the Christmas recess. Chances of passage are just fair at this writing. An unofficial CIO poll shows 32 Senators committed for the bill, 35 uncertain and the

balance against. A minimum of 16 more votes is needed in the Senate.

Many Senators are using as an excuse for failing to commit themselves the fact that they have heard little or nothing from the people in their states on the bill. This can be remedied immediately by launching a mass letter-writing campaign for letters from all FTA members, as well as from non-labor sources. FTA's Southern locals have done a splendid job in this respect—quotas of hundreds of letters a week from each local have been set and met, or bettered.

Letters to Senators listed below are needed immediately if we are to get them off the "uncertain" list and obtain the votes needed for the bill. Of course, Senators not named here should also continue to get letters. If they are for the bill, they need to be kept that way. If they are against it, there may be a chance of changing them.

ARIZONA: McFarland, Hayden.

ARKANSAS: Fulbright, McClellan.

ILLINOIS: Brooks.

INDIANA: Capehart, Willis.

IOWA: Hickenlooper.

MARYLAND: Radcliffe.

MICHIGAN: Ferguson, Vandenberg.

MINNESOTA: Shipstead.

MISSOURI: Donnell.

NEW JERSEY: Smith and Hawkes.

OHIO: Taft.

OREGON: Cordon.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Johnston, Maybank.

WEST VIRGINIA: Revercomb.

It is especially important that FTA locals which have contracts with minimum wages above 65c explain the importance of a 65c-75c minimum to protect their higher standards.

Inform the Washington Office of the results of your campaign, so that we can make use of them when seeing Congressmen.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

by Yomen



"AND PLEASE FORGIVE ME WHEN I LIE TO LABOR."

CIO Pushes Campaign To Keep Price Controls

Washington, D. C.—To combat the ever increasing attacks in Congress on OPA, the CIO moved Nov. 29 to rally labor's support for holding the line on prices.

CIO Legislative Director Nathan Cowan, in a letter

to OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, said CIO members are being asked to write their Congressmen "urging them to back strong price control for at least another year and to support legislation to place ceilings on the sale price of houses in order to prevent a real estate boom and collapse and to save rent control."

Cowan's letter said "it is apparent to us that powerful forces in this country are determined to scrap the entire price control program and allow our people to go through the same kind of inflation and collapse which followed World War I."

Related to Wages

"We in the labor movement realize fully that abandonment of price control now or six months from now would be a major disaster for the vast majority of the American people. The wage increases which we are fighting to achieve would be meaningless if prices were uncontrolled."

The letter expressed appreciation for the fight Bowles is making against powerful odds and said "we know that you are faced with several of the strongest lobbies in the country—the real estate men, the textile manufacturers, the retailers, and we congratulate you on the way in which you have stood your ground."

Radio Censorship Bill in Congress

Washington, D. C.—Radio news commentators who try to give labor a break in the news are few and far between. But the labor-baiters in Congress want to get rid of even these few.

The Un-American Rankin Committee has produced a bill (HR 4775) to gag liberal radio commentators and censor their scripts.

A trick clause in the bill calls for a record of nationality and "political affiliation" of all commentators.

The bill is now in the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. Write your Congressman to vote against it.

Jobs Bill on The Rocks

Washington, D. C.—The CIO entered a vigorous protest against the House Expenditures Committee which is making hash of the Full Employment Bill (HR 2202). In a letter to all Congressmen, CIO Legislative Director Nathan Cowan urged them to vote only for the original bill and oppose all amendments.

"The CIO endorsed and vigorously supported the original Full Employment Bill," the letter stated, "but we will vigorously oppose any bill which evades the issue of government responsibility for full employment and does not provide the machinery for carrying out that responsibility if private enterprise cannot fulfill its obligations."

Pass Original Bill

"We urge all Congressmen to vote for the original Patman bill, to vote against any meaningless substitute, and to refuse to pass any bill in preference to perpetrating a hoax on the American people under the guise of full employment legislation."

The Committee deleted all reference to full employment in their version of the bill. They left out a national budget of jobs and production, U. S. aid on jobs, and called for a "high level" of jobs, instead of jobs for all.

Tell your Representative to vote against a meaningless bill such as the House Committee report templates; work for HR 2202 as originally written.

Jobless Pay Bill Is Bottled Up

Washington, D. C.—The emergency Unemployment Insurance Bill (HR 3891) is still in the House Ways and Means Committee. Get your Congressman to bring it on to the Floor and work for passage of this vital measure.



Maritime Unions In 1-Day Protest

New York, N. Y.—A 24-hour nationwide stoppage of all shipping not used for troop transport and relief took place on December 3 to protest government failure to speed the return of the thousands of GI's marooned overseas. The stoppage, called by the CIO National Maritime Union, was joined by five other maritime unions.

Altogether, some 90,000 union men took part in the protest action. The unions participating in the strike were the NMU; CIO American Communications Asn.; Marine Firemen, Oilers & Watertenders; CIO Nat'l Union of Marine Cooks & Stewards; CIO Inland Boatmen, as well as 25,000 members of the CIO Int'l Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union.

Troop Return Program Bungled

Announcement of the stoppage was made by NMU President Joseph Curran in a radio address and press conference on Nov. 27 in which he charged that the "joint chiefs of staff, the War Shipping Administration and other authorities involved have badly bungled the troop return program." He accused them of "continued evasions and broken promises to our GI's."

Curran charged that although on V-J Day the U. S. had about 4,500 ocean-going merchant ships, only 450 were used to bring troops home. Since the NMU began its drive, the WSA has added 101 more ships.

Ships Go To China

Letters from GI's overseas confirm NMU charges that over 300 ships have been laid up. Some 55 victory-type fast ships have been turned over to private companies, while other ships are being used to intervene in China and the Far East. In the Saipan-Tinian harbor area alone, 87 ships are standing idle for months while thousands of idle GI's anxiously await ships to bring them home.

If the 24-hour stoppage does not succeed in forcing the WSA to use every available ship for troop transportation, Curran said he was prepared to recommend further action to the NMU national board.

SHIP THE BOYS HOME BY CHRISTMAS



SEND PRESIDENT TRUMAN A LETTER OR POST CARD

EVERY SHIP A TROOPSHIP
TO BRING THE GI'S HOME

Based on a public service by the Greater New York CIO Council, 1135 Broadway, N. Y. C.

From NMU Pilot

This is it! The leaflet the New York CIO is distributing in a million copies, calling for an avalanche of protests to the President against the use of ships for any purpose but bringing the GI's home. The New York CIO has been carrying on a continuous campaign for the past month with organized parades and mass rallies. Response to the campaign, initiated by the National Maritime Union, is overwhelming among soldiers and their families.

Mass Demonstrations Back NMU Campaign

New York, N. Y.—Mass demonstrations, rallies, parades

all over the nation are echoing the demands of the National Maritime Union to "make every ship a troopship" and get our GI's home by Christmas. CIO-sponsored community rallies in Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, on the West Coast are backing up these demands with wires, letters and petitions to President Truman by the thousands.

In Chicago, a rally was held Dec. 1 in front of City Hall. New Yorkers supported the 24-hour strike at a Dec. 3 mass meeting. In Philadelphia, a parade of union members and servicemen's families wound up with a huge central city demonstration on the same day.

GI's Letters Blast Shipping Snafu

Here are a few of the letters from GI's overseas appealing to their families and friends to end the shipping snafu and bring them home:

"I am still in the ETO. Why?" writes a soldier stationed with the 502nd Parachute Infantry in Germany to his brother. "Another month in this hell-hole and only God knows what I'll take to ease the strain on my nerves," (From the NMU Pilot)

The following excerpts appeared in the Mid-Pacific, GI daily paper for men in the Pacific Theatre of Operations:

"Screaming headlines state that 60-point men are eligible for return Nov. 1. This makes wonderful reading for the folks back home. They do not know that there are 80-to-90-point men over here and not the slightest possibility of 60-point men returning in November or even December. . . ."

"This outfit has nearly two years overseas. We came to the Pacific direct from the ETO. . . . No mail, no cigarettes, no pay for three months and no bread with our meals. The biggest yell of all is that the men with over 80 points can't even get as far as Manila."

"We all know that we have plenty of ships, so why aren't they using them all to get us home?"

"Why have they spread the discharging of men up to July when they could very easily have us all out by March?"

"Why aren't they discharging men with 85 points who are in the states?"

Speed GI's Home:

ETA members — join the campaign

to speed the return of our GI's from overseas!

- Write, wire and petition President Truman to convert all available ships into ships to bring the boys home.

- Rally your community to hold demonstrations around this campaign and circulate petitions.

- Pass resolutions at membership meetings and get other community organizations to do the same.

THE Story of Labor

IN THE PRE-CIVIL WAR PERIOD, WELL MEANING "REFORMERS" TRIED TO GET LABOR TO BACK UP THEIR OWN PET SCHEMES FOR AN EXAMPLE, ROBERT OWEN WANTED ALL WORKERS TO JOIN HIS WORLD CONVENTION TO EMANCIPATE THE HUMAN RACE FROM IGNORANCE, POVERTY, SIN AND MISERY. HORACE GREELEY TOLD THEM, "GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!" FRANCES WRIGHT EXHORTED THEM TO AGITATE FOR BIRTH CONTROL AND "FREE" MARRIAGES. WHEN THESE "REFORMERS" MOVED IN ON THE WORKINGMEN'S PARTY, THE WORKERS LED BY THE PRINTERS UNION, WALKED OUT. THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING WEST, AND THEY THOUGHT THERE WAS PLENTY OF POVERTY AND MISERY AT HOME TO WORRY ABOUT. HIGHER WAGES, A 10 HOUR DAY, A LIEN LAW AND THE ABOLITION OF IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT WERE THEIR IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES....

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ROBERT OWEN AND FRANCES WRIGHT ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE WORKINGMEN PARTY



THE UNION... IN 1845 THE UNIONS TRIED CO-OPERATIVE FACTORIES OWNED BY THE WORKERS....



IF I'M IN JAIL, HOW KIN I EVER PAY WHAT I OWE? LOOKS LIKE I'M HERE FOR LIFE!



A FINE THING! WORKERS TRYING TO RUN A FACTORY! THEM IRISH AND CANUCKS, JEWS AND CATHOLICS 'LL BE CUTTING EACH OTHER'S THROAT IN NO TIME!



BEN, DARLING! I NEVER THOUGHT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



I'LL TAKE TWO POUNDS O' STEAK, MR. LEV!

